Maintenance of law and order lies primarily in the domain of the concerned State Governments. The Central Government also closely monitors the situation and provides assistance by various means to the concerned State Governments.

Scheme for protection of witnesses

3169. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to enforce any scheme for the protection of witnesses; and

(b) if so, the details of essential features of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) The Law Commission of India in its 198th Report on 'Witness Identity Protection and Witness Protection Programmes' has suggested comprehensive review of witness protection. Since, the Criminal Law and the Criminal Procedure are on the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India this requires consultation with State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The Report has been referred to all the State Government and Union Territory Administration for their comments/views. No time frame can be fixed in this regard.

(b) Witness Protection Programmes refer to witness protection outside the Court. At the instance of the public prosecutor, the witness can be given a new identity by a Magistrate after conducting an *exparte* inquiry in his chambers. In a case of likelihood of danger to his life, he is given a different identity and may, if need be, even relocated in different place along with his depandants till the trial of the case against the accused is completed. The expenses for maintenance of all the persons must be met by the State Legal Aid Authority through the District Legal Aid Authority. The witness has to sign an MoU which will list out the obligations of the State as well the witness. Being admitted to the programme, the witness has an obligation to depose and the State has an obligation to protect him physically outside Court. Breach of MoU by the witness will result in his being taken out of the programme.

Rise in naxalite activities

†3170. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that naxalite activities have been increasing in the country for the last few years;

(b) if so, the number of districts identified in naxal affected States in April, 2004;

(c) the number of such States and districts during December, 2007 alongwith their names; and

(d) the reasons for this rapid increase in the naxalite activities?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRI PRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) Details of naxalite violence during the last 5 years are given below:

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Incidents	1597	1533	1608	1509	1565
Casualties of Security Forces	105	100	153	157	236
Casualties of Civilians	410	466	524	521	460

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Under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme, Ministry of Home Affairs reimburses security-related expenditure in respect of specified items to the concerned State Governments for dealing with naxalite activities. 76 districts in 9 States are included under this Scheme since the financial year 2004-05 to date. The list is given in enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of the Districts included under the SRE Scheme

Andhra Pradesh
1. Anantapur
2. Adilabad
3. East Godavari
4. Guntur
5. Karimnagar
6. Khammam
7. Kurnool
8. Medak
9. Mehboobnagar
10. Nalgonda
11. Nizamabad
12. Prakasam
13. Srikakulam
14. Visakhapatnam
15. Vizianagaram
16. Warangal

Bihar
17. Arwal
18. Aurangabad
19. Bhojpur
20. East Champaran
21. Gaya
22. Jamui
23. Jehanabad
24. Kaimur
25. Nalanda
26. Nawada
27. Patna
28. Rohtas
29. Sitamarhi
30. West Champaran

Chhattisgarh
31. Bastar
32. Dantewada
33. Jashpur
34. Kanker
35. Kawardha
36. Korea (Baikunthpur/ Rajnandgaon)
37. Rajnandgaon
38. Sarguja

Jharkhand
39. Bokaro
40. Chatra
41. Dhanbad
42. East Singhbhun
43. Garhwa
44. Giridih
45. Gumla
46. Hazaribagh
47. Koderma
48. Latehar
49. Lohardagga
50. Palamu
51. Ranchi
52. Simdega
53. Saraikela-Kharaswan
54. West Singhbhum

Madhya Pradesh
55. Balaghat
56. Dindori
57. Mandla

Maharashtra
58. Bhandara
59. Chandrapur
60. Gadchiroli
61. Gondia

Orissa
62. Gajapati
63. Ganjam
64. Keonjhar
65. Koraput
66. Malkangiri
67. Mayurbhanj
68. Navrangpur
69. Rayagada
70. Sundargarh

Uttar Pradesh
71. Chandauli
72. Mirzapur
73. Sonebhadra

West Bengal
74. Bankura
75. Midnapore
76. Purulia